

**Westmorland & Furness
Domestic Abuse
Partnership Strategy
2023- 2028**

Partnership Organisation Members



Westmorland & Furness
Community Safety
Partnership



Lancashire and
South Cumbria
Integrated Care Board



The Domestic Abuse Strategy is the first strategy for Westmorland and Furness District that focuses on improving our services for people who are or have been affected by domestic abuse, and on improving our response to people who cause harm through domestic abuse.

The strategy describes what Westmorland and Furness will do over the next five years to ensure people affected by domestic abuse receive the best possible care, and how we will continue to seek the involvement of people with lived experience of domestic abuse in the design and evaluation of domestic abuse services.

The strategy is based on three strategic themes:

- Protection and Support - Keeping victims, survivor's, and their families' safe whilst challenging the behaviour of perpetrators.
- Prevention - Early intervention and prevention to reduce the cycle of abuse and prevention of repeat occurrences of domestic abuse.
- Promotion of a Stronger System - To identify and strive to eradicate Domestic Abuse from our Communities we require strategies for community change and improvement.

The Strategy incorporates activity plans that will support us to succeed, these plans will be reviewed annually

The strategy will make a difference for our children and young people, residents, communities, service users and patients, for our own staff who provide services and support, and it will also make a difference to the way we engage and work with our partners in statutory and non-statutory sectors. All of this will ensure a more joined up, consistent, compassionate, and timely approach to domestic abuse across Westmoreland and Furness.

For the launch of the Domestic Abuse Strategy, a short film was developed, the film demonstrates the Partnership is committed to implementing a coordinated response to all domestic abuse. The video showcases the need for this strategy by telling the story of a female domestic abuse survivor while acknowledging gender differentiation, gender equality and that Domestic abuse does not limit its self to a particular gender. It goes through some of what and how local services provide support and highlights why it's important you reach out if you find yourself impacted by domestic abuse.

You can watch the video below: [Domestic Abuse Strategy | Westmorland and Furness Community Safety Partnership](#)

MISSION

We are collectively committed to addressing the societal issues of Domestic Abuse. Our pledge to all is for you to have trust in us and our partner agencies, that we will listen, respect your views, we will use language that cares, ensuring you are heard. We collectively commit to working towards identifying and striving to eradicating all Domestic Abuse. We are realistic that this will take time, but we start with actions that will make a positive impact, that will educate, protect and support to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse.

VISION

To build a future where we strive to eradicate Domestic Abuse, where society has a refreshed understanding and perspective. We use language that cares, individuals feel safe to disclose, all agencies are trusted

- **Above all** – we never stop listening and acting upon the voice of the victims and survivors

STRATEGIC AIMS

PROTECTION & Support - Keeping survivors and their families' safe whilst challenging the behaviour of perpetrators, recognising the different approaches required for domestic abuse in rural areas.

Providing support in safe accommodation for people escaping from Domestic Abuse.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN who are impacted

- Providing safe spaces to disclose in our schools and continual education and awareness raising of children/young people
- Maintain healthy relationship programme through an equitable rolling programme.

PREVENTION- Early intervention and prevention to reduce the cycle of abuse.

Research evidence's the importance of prevention and early intervention. We therefore commit to

- Getting in front of the cycle of Domestic Abuse by reducing repeat occurrences of domestic abuse, especially in the first 30 days after a DA incident.
- Understanding trauma informed, TI Cumbria
- Utilise evidence-based interventions at an early stage
- Hold perpetrators to account and address their behaviour and focus on the high harm perpetrators

PROTECTION & Support- Keeping survivors and their families safe whilst challenging the behaviour of perpetrators.

Working with our survivor networks to enhance our understanding: -

- Of everyday challenges felt by survivors and their children, families, and communities
- We will take each issue and work with agencies to address.

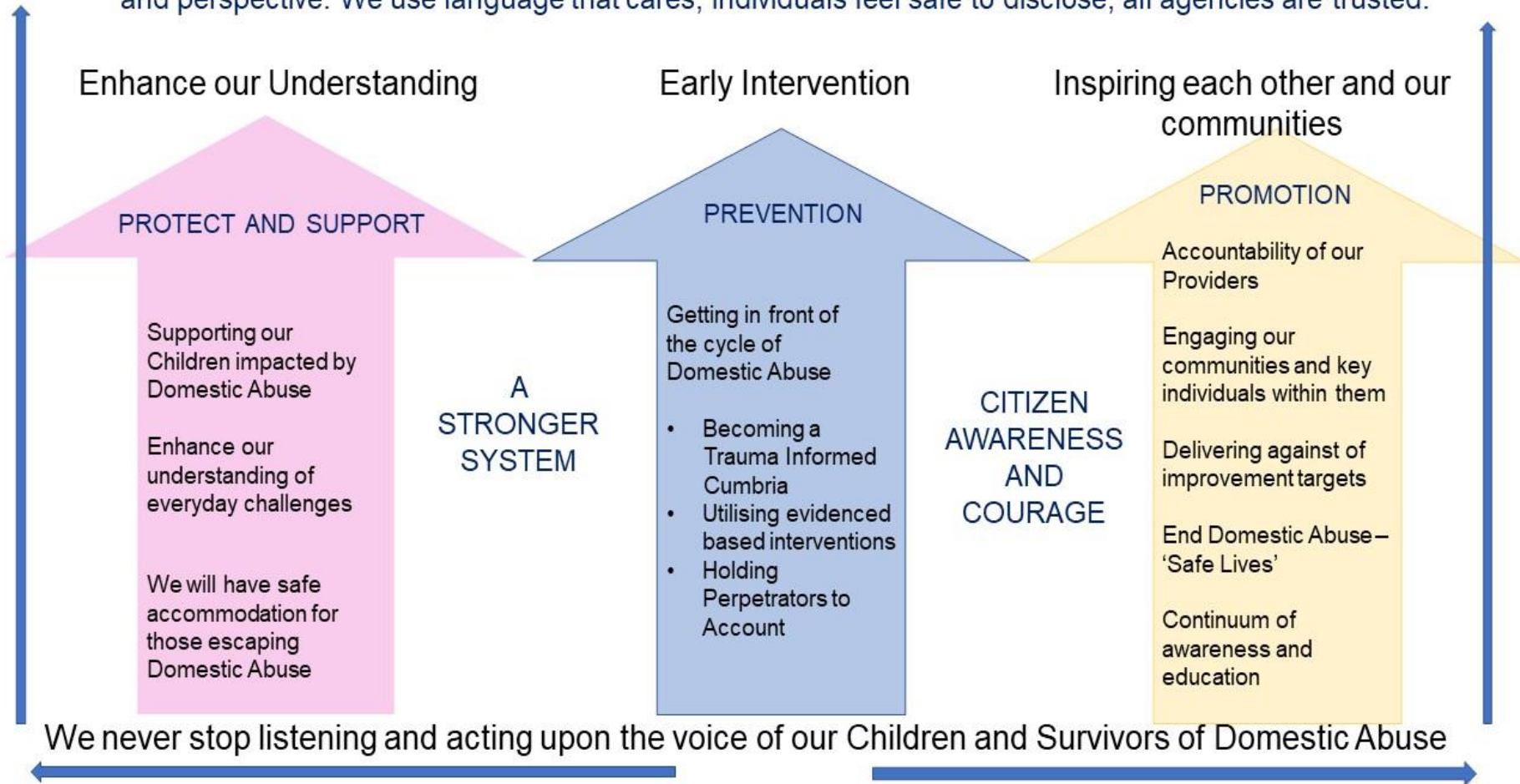
PROMOTION for a Stronger System

To identify and strive to eradicate Domestic Abuse from our communities we require strategies for community change and improvement.

- We will hold providers to account for the populations they serve and for the staff they employ i.e., education and applied learning
- We will engage with local counsellors, community, and faith groups, we will support minority groups
- We will analysis population demographics and Domestic Abuse activity. Setting KPIS for success
- We will apply 'Safe Lives' Public Health approach to ending Domestic Abuse.
- Awareness and education is a continuum of need for our communities and workforce. Not a one off, time limited activity

PLAN ON A PAGE –

We will build a future where we strive to eradicate Domestic Abuse, where society has a refreshed understanding and perspective. We use language that cares, individuals feel safe to disclose, all agencies are trusted.



Primary Area of Activity

Secondary Area of Activity

Change we will see

By 2028 we will be able to demonstrate that we have improved how we identify protect, educate, and support those experiencing Domestic Abuse and that we have reduce repeat perpetrator offenses from our communities

PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

- Providing support to victims & survivors in safe accommodation
- Providing safe spaces to disclose in our schools and continual education and awareness raising of children/YP
- Maintain healthy relationship through an equitable rolling programme.
- Understanding everyday challenges felt by survivors and their

PREVENTION

- Reduce repeat occurrences of domestic abuse.
- Understanding trauma informed, TI Cumbria
- Utilise evidence-based interventions.
- Perpetrators acknowledge and take responsibility to end their violence -Turning the Spotlight

PROMOTION OF A STRONGER SYSTEM

- We will hold providers to account for the populations they serve and for the staff they employ, recognising the different approaches required in rural areas to domestic abuse.
- We will engage with local counsellors, community, and faith groups, we will support minority groups
- We will analyse population demographics, setting KPIs for success
- We will apply 'Safe Lives' approach to ending Domestic Abuse. Accessing funding
- Awareness and education is a continuum

- Roll out Encompass and increase supportive school responses providing safe spaces
- Increase roll out of Healthy school's programme.
- We take each issue and work with agencies to address.

- Roll out EBP perpetrator programmes. Evaluate with perpetrators 6-month post programme.
- Trauma awareness and support for workforce supporting perpetrators. Trauma awareness of perpetrators
- Criminal legislation applied consistently – Utilise MATAAC

- We will undertake a series of audits with our providers noting staff are educated and have applied learning from DARDRDARDs. We will deliver a road show of events to raise awareness, working alongside champions and practitioner networks
- We will develop and have clear KPIs.
- Education and awareness, behaviours and cultures is a lifelong continuum of activity. We will think differently in our approach
- Victims & survivors of DA can be supported in the workplace and give employers confidence and knowledge to do so
- We access funds that will drive our plan

Schools recognised as a key partner in ending the cycle of DA.

Schools have more confidence and multiagency support to respond to children's needs.

All children understand schools provide a trusted safe space for disclosure.

Housing is acknowledged as a key partner in ending the cycle of DA. Their workforce are confident and well placed to open up conversations and provide safe space for disclosure

DwP polices are fully aligned to the needs of Domestic Abuse survivors.

- Programmes impact demonstrated
- We end repeat DA perpetrator offenses
- We understand Perpetrator violence may be behavioural response to previous trauma and act accordingly

- Society is more aware, and we note a change in attitudes and behavioural responses to Domestic abuse
- Providers know and are consistent in their response to DA. Networks strongly influence
- We have learnt from DARDRs and prevented serious incidents
- Public sector agencies have a zero tolerance to DA within their workforce.